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Sir Thomas Fairfax's

LETTER

To the Honorable,
William Lentball Esq; Speaker of
the House of Commons;

Concerning the taking of *Sherborn*
Castle, with 16. Pieces of Ordnance,
one Morter piece, and 344. Com-
mon Souldiers.

With another LETTER to the said Mr.
Speaker, Of the Particulars of all the pro-
ceedings against the Enemy at *Sherborn* Castle.

Together with a List of the Prisoners of War,
taken at *Sherborn* Castle, Aug. 15. 1645.

Also, the Oath taken by the Inhabitants of *Exeter*.

Ordered by the Commons in Parliamen, That these
Letters with the List, be forthwith Printed and
Published.
H. Ellynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

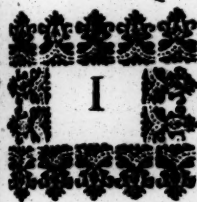
London, Printed for *Edward Husband*, Printer to the Ho-
norable House of Commons. Aug. 19. 1645.





To the Honourable *William Lenthall*,
Esquire, Speaker of the Honourable
House of Commons.

SIR,

 T hath pleased God still to manifest his
goodnesse to us, by delivering *Sherborn*
Castle into our hands; wherein we
found sixteen pieces of Ordnance,
and one Morter piece: Yesterday, af-
ter a breach was made in the wall,
wherein ten or twelve a breast might
enter, I sent a second Summons to the Governour, to
Surrender the Castle, which being refused by him, we
possessed our selves of the breach, and beat the enemy
from their works within, where they had planted 2. pieces
of Ordnance, to oppose our entrance: And some of the
Souldiers got into two of their Towers, and beat them
from all other places of advantage within, which enfor-
ced the Governour this day about two in the morning to
send a Drum for a Parley, to whom Answer was returned,
he must expect no other condition but Quarter for his life,
which (upon those termes) he being unwilling to Surrender.

der Tower, so that all things be made fit for a Storme:
 (The Miners having fully wrought the Mine through
 the wall, and foundation of the Tower) The
 Rebels presently began to apprehend the danger, and sent
 a man to crave Quarter; but before he could get out to
 deliver his Message, the Souldiers were got into the Castle
 and works, and had the Plunder of the Castle, which by
 reason of their so timely entrance, could not be prevented.
 We took prisoners in the Castle, Sir Lewis Dives the
 Governour, Colonell *Giles Strazger*, formerly a
 Member of the house, Sir *Fohn Walcoate*, Coll. *Thornhill*,
 and others of quality, and about four hundred Common
 Souldiers. The reducing of this place, is of the greater
 concernment, in regard of the influence it had upon the
 disaffected Clubmen in these parts, who (having the
 countenance of this Garrison) were made so bold in their
 attempts and meetings: I shall stay here not past a day, to
 settle this place, and then, after we have met and consi-
 dered, what is next fittest to be done for the publique ser-
 vice, shall move hence with the Army accordingly. I
 remaine, Sir,

Your assured friend to serve you,

Sherborn Aug.

Tho: Fairfax.

15. 1645.

To

To the Honorable William Lenthall Esquire, Speaker of the
Honorable House of Commons.

SIR,



Y lines commonly are the Messengers of good
News; if I might be spared hence, none should
have been more willing to have brought the
News then my self: This day I sent you a Copy
of Sir Lewis Dives Message to have Honorable
Conditions; The answer the Generall returned,
was in these words:

SIR,

I Should have been as willing to gratifie you with Honorable Condi-
tions, as any man, having expressed so much Gallantry in the de-
fending of your self; But the advantage I now have by being possessor
of the Breath, and some of the Towers, as it may with reason induce you to
Surrender the place; so it Obligeth me in Honour, to agree to no other
Conditions, then Quarter for your lives, which I should be glad you
would accept of, that so the Effusion of that blood, which will inevitably
follow upon a Refusall, might be prevented.

Sir, It is against my nature to threaten or insult over your Condi-
tion; but I must tell you, (and I wish you have a heart to believe it)
That if you refuse this my offer, you and those with you must know, I
will hear of no Terms for the future.

This answer being returned, the Governour could not brook it:
Great and small shot plaid, our Souldiers rejoyced at the refusall:
The Generall instantly gave Order to fit all things for a Storm, the
Mines being finished: But without any Order to fall on, our Soul-
diers were in an instant both over the Castle walls and works; they
within took down their bloody Colours, cryed for Quarter, and
sent a Drum out, and an endeavour was used, they had Quarter;
but it was happy for them; There was such plenty of Riches and
Plunder within, which took up and busied the Souldier: Other-
wise, it would have been difficult to have got them Quarter. At
our first entrance, some of them were slain, but none afterwards;
though it were to be wished, the Souldier had that in Money,
which

which they took in Plunder; yet five shillings gotten in way of Spoil from an Enemy, gives them more content, then twenty shillings in a way of reward in an orderly manner; besides, being not rewarded (ten shillings a man) according to promise, when *Bridge-water* was stormed, made them now more zealous to be their own Carvers. There was not a man but got Plunder, some two and three times over, as soon as they had been at home, came back again, and returned loaded with booty in my presence. My greatest care was to preserve Writings, but was glad to take the Souldiers leavings, and missed things there present, of great concernment; yet some was got, of the proceedings in *Spain*, when the Earl of *Bristol* was there with the Prince: The Generall intends to stay here but one day to settle their Peace, & then to move with the Army, as it may be in his Judgement and the opinion of the Councell of War most for the Publique Service: I believe we shall go where we are not expected: The Army is Mustered, and most of it paid, and I hope will give a good Accompt of what ever Service they undertake: This businesse of *Sherborn* having tryed the skill and Resolution of the Souldier, more then in any things hath yet fallen out; and indeed, the Comptroller of the Ordnance, hath been a diligent and active man in managing the approaches, Bridges, Mines and Galleries. Once again, let me desire you to expedite all things fitting for Sieges, with all the speed that may be; a day lost in it, is of infinite dis-Service; above all, send Morter-peeces and Granado shels fit for them: They are at *Warwick*, but sent for. This being all time will give me leave to write, I rest, Sir,

Sherborn, 15. Aug.

Your most faithfull and

12. at night.

humble Servant.

I send you inclosed the *Exeter* Oath.

I have sent you a List of the Persons of Note taken in *Sherborn*.

V.A.B.

I A. B. Do freely and from my heart Swear, Vow, and Protest in the presence of Almighty God, That I will use my best endeavour to Maintain and Defend this City of Exeter; against all Forces raised or to be raised without his Majesties consent upon any pretence whatsoever, and particularly against the Forces now under the command of Sir Tho: Fairfax or any other that shall command them, or any other Forces against this City, and all forces which do or shall adhere to them or their party, & I will neither directly nor indirectly give (or so far as in me lieth) suffer to be given any intelligence, advice or information to the Army, or any of those forces now under the command of Sir Tho: Fairfax, nor to any other forces (not raised by the Kings consent) which shall now, or at any time hereafter come against, lie before, or attempt the taking, besieging, or blocking up of this City of Exeter: But will from time to time discover to the Governor or Lieut. Governor of this City, any one, and all such, as I shall know or probably suspect to give any such intelligence or information. As likewise that I will discover to the Governour or his Lieutenant Governour, all treacheries, plots, designs, conspiracies, and attempts, which I shall know, hear of, or probably suspect to be intended or plotted against His Majesties Person, or the said City, or any of His Majesties Armies, Towns, or Forces. Neither will I, or shall any other by my procurement, directly or indirectly, by words or otherwise dissuade, or discourage any of the Souldiers or Inhabitants of this City, from engaging themselves, or persisting in his Majesties Service, or the defence of this City against the Forces aforesaid. And this I Vow and Protest according to the usuall sense and meaning of the words hereof, without any equivocation or mentall reservation whatsoever; And shall to the utmost of my power observe and performe the same; So helpe me God, And by the contents of this Booke.

A List

A List of the Prisoners of War taken at

Sherborn Castle the 13. of August 1645.

Sir Lewis Dives.	Engline Toole.
Sir John Walcooth.	Ensigne Collins townsman.
Col. Strangways of Horse.	Ensigne Mullins.
Col. Thornhill.	Ensigne Tod.
Lieut. Col. Strangways	George Waller Provost Mar-
of Horse.	shall.
Major Balston.	Chirurgien.
Capt. Hamon.	Mr. Stuckey.
Capt. Bright.	Mr. Paylee.
Capt. Chancee.	Mr. Robinson.
Capt. Mullins.	Ministers.
Capt. Creswell.	Doctor Cocksion.
Capt. Lieut. Norris.	Mr. Wild.
Capt. Heddinot.	Mr. Wake.
Capt. Speed.	Mr. Townsend.
Capt. Strangways of Horse.	Mr. Ford.
Capt. Bond.	Gentlemen.
Capt. Hoddin.	Mr. Chafine.
Capt. Brisco.	Mr. Buckland.
Lieut. Jennings.	Mr. Barns.
Lieut. Taylor.	Mr. Browne.
Lieut. Mallet.	Mr. Grisley.
Lieut. Rogers.	Mr. Forsell.
Lieut. Townsend.	Mr. Richards.
Lieut. Foliffe of Horse.	Mr. Wihorne.
Coronet Devonet Refor-	Mr. Hutchins.
mado.	Mr. Carleton.
Ensigne Gale.	
Ensigne Hoyes.	344. Common Souldiers,
Ensigne Harris.	besides Officers.



